

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 NIC-01 /075 W

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P R 241745Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1845

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: INSTITUTIONALIZATION: AFM CONSULTS PARTIES

REF: LISBON 1000 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: AFM HAS STARTED CONSULTING PARTIES ON A "PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING" TO GOVERN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND THE AFM FOLLOWING ELECTIONS. PPD AND PS OBJECT TO ELEMENTS OF SEVEN-POINT AFM PROPOSAL, BUT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE QUESTION AS TO WHAT EXTENT PARTIES CAN INFLUENCE AFM PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY

1. ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) HAS APPOINTED AN EIGHT-MAN INSTITUTIONALIZATION COMMITTEE TO CONSULT WITH POLITICAL PARTIES
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AND OBTAIN THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF RECENTLY ADOPTED SEVEN-POINT

"PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING" FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AFM (REFTEL).

2. COMMITTEE INCLUDES GENERAL PINHO FREIRE AND ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO OF JUNTA; CAPT VASCO LOURENCO, MAJ PEREIRA PINTO, AND LT JUDAS OF AFM COORDINATING COMMITTEE; MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO VICTOR ALVES AND MELO ANTUNES; AND LABOR MINISTER COSTA MARTINS.

3. INSTITUTIONALIZATION COMMITTEE MET SEPARATELY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF FIVE POLITICAL PARTIES ON FEB 21 (PPD, COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS, CDS, AND MDP) TO PRESENT 7-POINT PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO PPD LEADER JOAO BOSCO MOTA AMARAL, PPD AND SOCIALISTS OBJECT TO THREE POINTS IN PROGRAM: AFM APPROVAL OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES; LEGISLATIVE POWERS FOR COUNCIL OF STATE UNDER NEW CONSTITUTION; AND AFM SELECTION OF FUTURE DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS.

4. ACCORDING TO MOTA AMARAL AND OTHER SOURCES, PPD IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT ITS CHANCES OF SWAYING AFM ON THESE POINTS.

5. PRESUMABLY INSTITUTIONALIZATION COMMITTEE WILL CONSULT IN FUTURE WITH SEVEN OTHER PARTIES NOW IN PROCESS OF LEGALIZATION. THERE IS APPARENTLY NO DEADLINE FOR CONSULTATION PROCESS WITH PARTIES.

6. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW YET TO WHAT EXTENT AFM WILL BE AMENABLE TO CHANGES OR DELETIONS SUGGESTED BY PARTIES. OUTCOME OF THIS ISSUE WILL BE A KEY INDICATOR OF HOW FAR AFM WILL BE WILLING TO ACCEPT DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN PORTUGAL. ALTHOUGH AFM UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE RESURGENCE OF OLD REGIME VIA ELECTION PROCESS, IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT RADICAL ELEMENT OF AFM WOULD LIKE TO GO CONSIDERABLY FURTHER THAN THIS.

7. THUS, IN DEFENDING DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND FREE ELECTION, MODERATE NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES RUN REAL RISK OF BEING TARRED AS "REACTIONARIES." THIS IS ALREADY HAPPENING AND IS SOURCE OF TENSION BETWEEN MODERATE PARTIES AND AFM. PPD, WEAKENED BY SICKNESS OF SECRETARY-GENERAL SA CARNEIRO AND WITH NOBODY SUBSTITUTING FOR HIM, WILL NOT BE STRONG ALLY OF PS IN THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750064-1069
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750219/aaaaa quy.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 1000
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INSTITUTIONALIZATION: AFM CONSULTS PARTIES
TAGS: PINT, PO, AFM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006